

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1, 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawamura '780, for the reasons of record, while claims 2-4 and 6-8 were deemed to be allowable if placed in independent form.

In response, and in order to place the instant application in condition for allowance, claims 2 and 6 are herewith canceled, without prejudice, and the allowable subject matter of these now-canceled claims has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 5, thereby placing these claims in condition for allowance. Additionally, claims 3 and 7 have been amended to depend from claims 1 and 5, respectively, so that all of the currently-pending claims now depend either directly or indirectly from an independent claim containing allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the currently-pending claims, as herein amended, are now in condition for allowance, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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